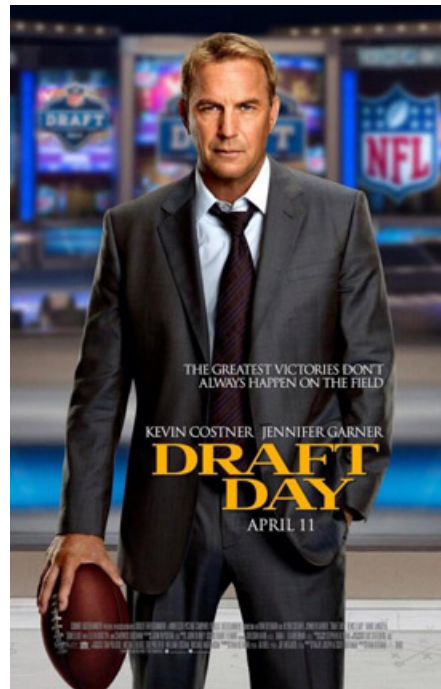


DRAFT DAY
By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



Draft Day is the latest in a series of Kevin Costner films, and I will say the most enjoyable. Much more plausible than the contrived *Three Days to Kill*, *Draft Day* brings Costner back to what he has always done best – sports-themed movies. In his prime, he gave us *Field of Dreams*, *Bull Durham* and *Tin Cup*. Those movies were box office hits that offered pleasant entertainment. And for fans of the genre, Costner was king.

Times have changed and so has Costner. Still formidably attractive, he plays Sonny Weaver, a man whose character is tested at work, home and in his personal life. Heroically, Sonny struggles with what to do when he has made a personal commitment and then is forced to reconsider his choice by those who put money before moral decency. Costner plays it straight and is even laid back when he is pissed off. I have been a fan of his for many years, and have seen him at his best and at his worst. *Draft Day* is in the middle of the pack.

Jennifer Garner, Frank Langella and Denis Leary lend their talents to the team and you can see that this was a fun place to be around. No Oscars here, just some light comedy and a good first round pick if you are looking for light escapist fare. What *Draft Day* reminds us of is loyalty, commitment and courage to do the right thing at the right time, for the right reasons no matter what. That is the touchdown here.

Even if you know nothing about football, this movie has a lot of interesting commentaries to make on the business of football and is a nice way to spend the afternoon. There is something so un-offensive about Kevin Costner that even when he is using the most extreme expletives, the audience is pleased. After all these years,

Costner can still command that level of attention. He has aged well and seems to be more comfortable in his own skin. He scored with this movie.

Team spirit, persistence, honor, honesty and integrity are things that Costner seems to have embodied throughout his illustrious career. He has had mega home runs and lots of hits and misses, but he still gets up to bat, takes a swing or throws a pass. He is not afraid to slide home or to be tackled. It is his game and he plays it well. I like that we go right along with him side-by-side, rooting all the way for him to do what we all know he will. And in the end, what more can you ask for? So, grab your kids and loved ones and have a great time in the stand. *Draft Day* is as much about what we stand for as it is about where we stand. Enjoy.

I give *Draft Day* three touchdowns. Pass me the popcorn!

